

# Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

## LRWC ANNUAL REPORT 2014

(April 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014)

*"Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them."*

### MISSION

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC) is a committee of lawyers dedicated to promoting the rule of law and human rights internationally by:

- Providing support to lawyers and other human rights defenders whose rights, freedoms, or independence are threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy.
- Conducting legal research and producing legal analyses of national and international laws and standards relevant to advocacy rights, the integrity of legal systems, fair trials rights and the rule of law.
- Working in cooperation with other human rights organizations.
- Engaging in legal education.

LRWC and LRW(Legal Research)C are non-profit societies incorporated under the *Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act*. LRW(Legal Research)C engages in legal research and education and has charitable tax status.

### IN THIS REPORT

Executive Director's Message	2
United Nations Participation	3
United Nations Human Rights Council	3
Universal Periodic Reviews	7
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	7
In-Country Investigations and Trial Monitoring	8
Cambodia	8
Colombia	8
Thailand	9
Letters For Lawyers	9
International Human Rights Education	10
Legal Research	13
Work with Other NGOs	17
Constitutions	18
Boards of Directors	18
Donors, Contributors & Volunteers	19
Contact Information	20

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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This reporting period was longer than 12 months because the pace of work left little time to produce an 'annual' report. During this 21-month reporting period, LRWC members did a prodigious amount of effective *pro bono* work of lasting importance. LRWC letters—more than 100 letters objecting to abuses in 27 countries—contributed to many significant successes for those targeted with abuse: bogus charges were withdrawn; urgently needed medical treatment was provided to prisoners; pre-trial release was allowed; harassments were stopped; and lawyers and other human rights defenders were acquitted, located and released from prison. Research and education by LRWC members improved the capacities of individuals and groups to engage in effective human rights advocacy and enhanced understanding of state duties to ensure rights. LRWC produced and distributed legal research on topics critical to human rights enforcement but poorly understood, organized and co-hosted twelve free public legal education talks, and produced four videos on topics of public concern. Legal research included: a guide book on the international law rights to legal aid; four written reports and seventeen oral presentations to the UN Human Rights Council; four reports on the Universal Periodic Reviews of Iran, Turkey and Viet Nam; and three complaints to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) regarding situations in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Bangladesh, all of which resulted in favourable WGAD Opinions. LRWC produced reports on rights to: equality and freedom from discrimination, pre-trial release, medical treatment, trial by civilian courts, fair trial, assembly and association and other topics. LRWC members attended and contributed to all five sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and traveled to Colombia, Cambodia and Thailand to conduct in-country investigations of grave human rights problems. Most LRWC communications were published in English, with some publications also available in French, Spanish, Arabic, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese. Translations into Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese were done because the LRWC was considered so uniquely informative. Also produced were 18 Newsletters and one Annual Report. During the reporting period, LRWC worked in cooperation with hundreds of other human rights groups around the world.

Attacks on lawyers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations engaged in human rights activities increased during the reporting period as the struggle for rights and democratic governance by civil society actors clashed with the push for control of resources and governments by corporate actors. States sought to silence opposition by criminalizing internationally protected rights to expression, association, assembly and other democratic rights. Human rights defenders and activists unpopular with governments frequently faced arbitrary convictions based on charges too vague and broad to be either avoided or defended and tried before courts lacking in independence, impartiality and competence. National security needs were frequently cited as necessitating repressive laws, increased public surveillance and greater government secrecy. While attacks on civil society actors engaged in advocacy, education and public debate increased in frequency and severity, LRWC remained a strong voice promoting human rights law and the rule of law and demonstrating the power of informed and peaceful advocacy.

## ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

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### I. UNITED NATIONS PARTICIPATION

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LRWC participated in five sessions of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, presenting fifteen oral interventions and four written reports to the HRC on topics of concern. LRWC, either alone or in partnership with other organizations, also provided reports to the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of Iran and Turkey, made a presentation to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples during his visit to Canada, prepared a response to government questions and an update for the pre-session to the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR of Viet Nam, filed Petitions with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on behalf of arbitrarily detained people in Viet Nam and Cambodia and provided a Letter of Allegation to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment concerning developments in Bahrain.

#### A. 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 27 May – 14 June 2013

Highlights of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva include an urgent debate on Syria and the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Toronto-based lawyer Gary Anandasangaree and Geneva-based human rights scholar Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the HRC as representatives of LRWC.

##### i. Oral Interventions at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session

- **Global/Canada:** [Right to legal aid and access to counsel](#). On 30 May 2013, Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes presented a statement underscoring the insurmountable difficulties faced by litigants unrepresented because of inadequate legal aid and Canada's failure to implement the recommendations of CESC (2006), CEDAW (2008) and CERD (2012) to ensure legal aid as an integral part of the right to equality before the law and equal protection of human rights.
- **Global:** [Human Rights Defenders targeted for abuse by corporations](#). On 31 May 2013, Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes presented a statement expressing regret that, despite the greater acceptance by the States of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), instances of complicity of corporations and other business in targeting human rights defenders persist, not only in states with poor rule of law, but also in countries with relatively robust legal systems.

#### B. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 9 – 27 September 2013

Three LRWC representatives attended the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council from 9 - 27 September 2013, Gary Anandasangaree, Vani Selvarajah and Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes. LRWC presented three oral statements. Reports of particular interest to LRWC were presented on the rights of indigenous peoples ([A/HRC/24/41](#)), the UPRs of Colombia ([A/HRC/24/6](#)), [Bangladesh \(A/HRC/24/12\)](#) and Cameroon ([A/HRC/24/15](#)), and on the situation of human rights in Cambodia ([A/HRC/24/36](#)) and Sudan ([A/HRC/24/31](#)).

**i. Oral Interventions by LRWC at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session**

- **Sri Lanka:** [Untimely Passing of Human Rights Defender Sunila Abeyasekara](#). On 9 September 2013, Gary Anandasangaree presented this statement honouring the human rights work of Sunila Abeyasekara.
- **Thailand and Cambodia:** [Insult laws used to punish human rights defenders](#). On 16 September, 2013, Vani Selvarajah presented this statement highlighting the use of criminal defamation and *lèse majesté* laws in Thailand and Cambodia to prosecute and imprison people speaking out on human rights and democracy issues.
- **Sri Lanka:** [Independent international investigation of war crimes needed](#). On 26 September 2013, Vani Selvarajah delivered this statement explaining the fact that 4½ years after the end of armed conflict, militarization is still pervasive and is obstructing peace and keeping Tamils living in the shadow of guns.

**C. The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 3 – 28 March 2014**

LRWC was represented at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC in Geneva by Vani Selvarajah. Issues of concern to LRWC addressed at this session were reports on human rights defenders; human rights in Myanmar and Iran; reports on the UPRs of China, Malaysia, and Mexico; and the OHCHR report on accountability in Sri Lanka. HRC adopted two decisions and nine resolutions including resolutions calling for accountability in Sri Lanka (A/HRC/22/L.1/Rev1) and better protection for human rights defenders (A/HRC/22/L.1/Rev1). The latter resolution, made in response to mounting dangers faced by human rights defenders, urges states to both acknowledge the work of human rights defenders as essential to the rule of law and ensure their safety and independence. LRWC prepared five and presented four oral interventions.

**i. Oral Interventions by LRWC at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session**

- **Bangladesh and Cambodia:** [Human Rights Defenders under threat in Bangladesh and Cambodia](#). This joint statement by LRWC and L4L, presented by Vani Selvarajah on 10 March 2014, expressed concern the continued use of laws to harass human rights defenders working on environment and land rights issues and reprisals for cooperation with the UN.
- **Myanmar:** [Concerns about the independence of lawyers in Myanmar](#). This joint statement by LRWC and L4L, presented by Vani Selvarajah on 17 March 2014, identified the need for law reform to guarantee the independence of lawyers and freedom from civil and criminal suits for representing clients. [See video](#).
- **Iran:** [Situation of lawyers in Iran and independence of the legal profession remain precarious](#). This joint statement by LRWC and L4L, presented by Vani Selvarajah on 17 March 2014, called for action to stop the arbitrary imprisonment of human rights lawyers and reprisal against the founders of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders in Iran. [See video](#).
- **China:** [Failure of UPR to deal with grave abuses](#). This statement, presented by Vani Selvarajah on 19 March 2014, criticized the failure of UPR Outcome Report on China to identify egregious and widely known human rights abuses, citing the example of Cao Shunli, who was arrested on her way to Geneva to participate in the UPR of China and subsequently died in custody.
- **Malaysia:** Failure of UPR report to address continued use of *Sedition Act, 1948*. This joint statement by LRWC and L4L calling for the repeal of the *Sedition Act, 1948* was not delivered.

## D. The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 10-27 June 2014

LRWC prepared and presented three oral interventions at the June session of Council in cooperation with L4L, the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) and Fair Trial Watch. A fourth statement on Viet Nam's failure to follow recommendations of the WGAD was not presented because of scheduling changes. LRWC also filed, in May, four written reports for consideration at this session. LRWC did not have a representative attending this session of Council.

### i. Oral Interventions by LRWC at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session

- **Colombia:** [Failure to Prevent and Punish Murder of Lawyers in Colombia](#). This joint statement by LRWC and L4L, presented by Adrie van de Streek of L4L, calls on the HRC to ensure that Colombia “conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations of the recent murders of 15 lawyers in Colombia” and “adopt all necessary measures, to put an end to impunity.” This statement is part of LRWC’s work to support lawyers working in Cali and the Valle del Cauca Department of Colombia, 13 of whom were murdered in 2013. Watch the [video of the presentation](#).
- **Thailand:** [The Council Must Declare the Coup Illegal](#). This joint statement by LRWC and ALRC, presented by Mr. Budi Tjahjono of Franciscans International on 23 June 2014, identified the human rights crisis caused by the 22 May military overthrow of the elected government in Thailand and the need for Council to declare the coup illegal. This statement is part of LRWC’s ongoing monitoring of rule of law issues in Thailand. Watch the [video of the presentation](#) at #10.
- **Global:** [Prosecution and Imprisonment of Lawyers for Discharging Their Functions](#). This joint statement by LRWC, L4L and ALRC, presented by Moon Jeong Ho on 12 June 2014, identified the need for Council to take effective action to free lawyers wrongfully imprisoned for their human rights work. Examples highlighted were lawyers imprisoned in Iran, Russia and Turkey. This statement is part of ongoing work to achieve justice for lawyers in Iran and Turkey targeted with reprisal prosecutions. Watch the [video of the presentation](#).

### ii. Written Reports by LRWC to the 25th Session

- **Canada:** [The Shrinking Space for Dissent in Canada](#): This report, filed by LRWC and endorsed by the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, expresses concern about restrictions on freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression and documents the increasingly hostile environment in Canada toward civil society organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders. The report recommends that Council encourage Canada to establish a more enabling environment for CSOs and human rights defenders, including the immediate cessation of surveillance activities and intimidation of CSOs and human rights defenders who engage in lawful advocacy.
- **Colombia:** [Failure to fulfil state duties to prevent and punish attacks on lawyers](#). This report, filed in connection with ongoing LRWC monitoring and advocacy in relation to the grave situation of lawyers in Colombia, focuses on the murders of twelve lawyers during 2013 in the Valle del Cauca Department and elaborates the failure of Colombia to protect lawyers from attacks and punish perpetrators.
- **Iran:** [Wrongful prosecution and imprisonment of lawyers](#). This joint report by LRWC, L4L and the ALRC is a follow-up of the UPR report and oral intervention in March by LRWC and L4L highlighting cases of lawyers subjected to malicious prosecutions, unfair trials, arbitrary detention

and other grave injustices and interference in reprisal for their legal advocacy and Iran's failure to ensure rights to counsel and the advocacy rights of lawyers.

- **Viet Nam:** [Failure to comply with UPR Recommendations to release detained lawyers](#). This report, filed jointly by LRWC and L4L and endorsed by Progress for Viet Nam, was part of the ongoing work to free wrongly imprisoned lawyers and other human rights defenders and promotes compliance with the recommendations of the WGAD. In Opinions made from 2011 – 2013, the WGAD concluded that the detention by Viet Nam of three lawyers and three labour activists was arbitrary and recommended release and repatriation. Viet Nam, a member of the UN Human Rights Council since November 2013, has not complied. The LRWC report recommends that the HRC take specific measures to ensure that Viet Nam comes into full compliance with the *ICCPR* and the UN *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

## E. The 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 8 – 26 September 2014

Four LRWC members attended the 27th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva during September: Toronto-based lawyer Gavin Magrath attended the first week, Victoria-based lawyers Catherine Morris and Paul Scambler attended the second week and Scarborough-based Gary Anandasangaree attended the third week. LRWC prepared and presented three oral interventions. A fourth oral intervention was presented by Kenneth Deer.

### i. Oral Interventions by LRWC at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session

- **Canada:** [Reports of the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples and Reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). This statement by the Indigenous World Association and LRWC, presented by Kenneth Deer on 17 September 2014, describes the report of Special Rapporteur James Anaya on Canada as a “scathing indictment of one of the richest countries in the world,” citing a widening well-being gap, little to no progress in education, health care, missing and murdered women, housing or poverty reduction and lack of meaningful consultation with First Nations people on these issues. The video of Kenneth Deer delivering this statement can be viewed by going to [this link](#), scrolling down to and clicking on Item 43.
- **Global:** [Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Access to Justice and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Disaster Risk Reduction](#). This statement presented by Catherine Morris on 17 September 2014 to the Panel on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlights the urgent need for protection and access to remedies for indigenous rights activists subject to attacks in reprisal for their advocacy and cites examples of activists under attack in Brazil, Colombia and Thailand and inadequate access to remedies in Canada. To view the video, go to 2:27:30 at [this link](#).
- **Cambodia:** [Re: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia](#). This statement by LRWC and ALRC, which highlighted continuing attacks by state authorities on human rights defenders and land activists and the absence of recourse to the courts due to lack of judicial independence, was not delivered because of a scheduling error.
- **Global:** [Human Rights Defenders subjected to arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance](#). This statement commends the contributions of Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearances and condemns prevailing impunity, citing examples from Malaysia, Bahrain, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Egypt and Thailand. The statement was not delivered when the list of non-governmental organization (NGO) speakers was shortened.

## II. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

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During the reporting period LRWC, in cooperation with partner NGOs, continued participate in the UPR process by filing reports with the OHCHR for the UPRs of Iran and Turkey and by preparing a response to comments by the Government of Viet Nam to the joint report filed for the November 2013 UPR of Viet Nam. LRWC, L4L and the Law Society of England and Wales prepared an [update](#) on the Le Quoc Quan case for distribution the UPR Pre-Session on 27 November in Geneva, and a representative from a Geneva-based NGO attended the session on LRWC's behalf.

- **Viet Nam:** [Response to Government of Viet Nam's comments concerning the Petition filed on behalf of Mr Le Quoc Quan](#), in March 2013, 2 September 2013, Media Legal Defense Initiative, LRWC and others.
- **Viet Nam:** [Update for the purpose of the Pre-session UPR regarding Viet Nam](#), on 27 November 2013, L4L, LRWC and The Law Society of England and Wales.
- **Iran:** [Safety and Independence of Lawyers & Access to Legal Representation in Iran](#). This joint report by LRWC and L4L submitted on 15 March 2014 for consideration on the UPR of Iran identified violations of individual and professional advocacy rights and cited cases of lawyers subjected to politically motivated prosecutions, unfair trials, arbitrary detention and other grave injustices in reprisal for their professional advocacy. Lawyers sentenced to imprisonment for their human rights work were: Abdolfattah Soltani, Nasrin Sotoudeh, Mohammed Ali Dadkhah, Mohammed Seyfzadeh, Kambiz Norouzi, Javid Houtan Kian, Hassan Sarchahi, Farshid Yadollahi, Omid Behrouzi, Mustafa Daneshju, Amir Eslami, Afshin Karampour.
- **Turkey** - LRWC, L4L, the Law Society of England and Wales and Fair Trial Watch submitted a [joint report](#) on 24 June 2014 to the OHCHR for consideration on the second UPR of Turkey. The joint report cited dozens of cases of lawyers harassed, prosecuted and imprisoned solely for discharging their professional duties as lawyers for clients unpopular with, or seen as opponents of, the Government of Turkey, including those of Filiz Kalayci, Hasan Anlar, Halil Ibrahim Vargün, Murat Vargün, Muharrem Erbey and Ramazan Demir.

## III. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD)

LRWC submitted two Petitions for Relief to the WGAD: on behalf of Cambodian land activist Ms Yorm Bopha and Vietnamese lawyer Le Quoc Quan. The WGAD also considered LRWC's letter objecting to the arrest and prosecution of Bangladesh lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan.

- **Cambodia:** LRWC submitted a [Petition](#) on behalf of jailed land activist Yorm Bopha in August 2013. The WGAD determined, in its 21 October 2013 Opinion ([A/HRC/WGAD/2013/](#)), that Ms Bopha had been arrested and convicted because of her human rights activities; her detention was arbitrary and recommended release and compensation. The Government of Cambodia refused and Ms Bopha was released on other grounds.
- **Viet Nam:** LRWC and 11 other NGOs (Petitioning NGOs) submitted a reply (2 September 2013) to the responses of the Government of Viet Nam and provided the WGAD with an update on 31 October 2013. The WGAD, in its 29 November 2013 Opinion ([A/HRC/WGAD/2013](#)), determined that Le Quoc Quan had been denied timely access to counsel in accordance with applicable fair trial rights and recommended that the Government of Viet Nam immediately release Le Quoc Quan or ensure a trial conducted in strict compliance with ICCPR requirements and provide reparation. The Petitioning NGOs filed a second Petition for Relief on behalf of Le Quoc Quan (5 September 2014) when Viet Nam refused to comply with the WGAD Opinion.

- **Bangladesh:** In response to receiving the August 2014 letter from LRWC, the WGAD reviewed the detention and prosecution of prominent human rights lawyers Adilur Rahman and recommended immediate release and discontinuance of charges. Bangladesh complied.

#### IV. IN-COUNTRY INVESTIGATIONS AND TRIAL MONITORING

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##### **Cambodia**

Catherine Morris travelled to Cambodia 27 November to 5 December 2014 to meet with representatives of human rights and legal aid organizations, lawyers, journalists and UN officials. Ms. Morris also met with the President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC), Mr. Bun Honn, and BAKC's Deputy Director, Mr. Sang Sothun in Phnom Penh, and presented a copy of LRWC's report on *The Right to Legal Aid: A Guide to International Law Rights to Legal Aid* and engaged in discussion on matters addressed in a 17 October 2014 joint letter to the President by LRWC and L4L. The letter congratulated the President on his re-election and on a 2014 agreement between the BAKC and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that new members of the Bar will now receive mandatory training on fair trial rights. The letter expressed concern about lack of sufficient legal aid lawyers when BAKC's research indicates legal aid is needed in 54 percent of criminal cases in Cambodia. In 2013, there were only 76 legal aid lawyers (including legal aid organizations and BAKC legal aid lawyers), down from 119 legal aid lawyers in 2010, with no legal aid lawyers at all in several provinces. LRWC and L4L congratulated the BAKC on its joint advocacy with the OHCHR for properly funded legal aid, noting that the government announced increased legal aid funding in 2014. LRWC and L4L emphasized that BAKC legal aid should be administered independently, without State interference. In the letter and in the meeting, issues raised by LRWC included:

- independence of lawyers and interference with the work of lawyers as well as executive oversight by the Ministry of Justice pursuant to Article 26 of the *Law on the Bar*;
- incidents of denial of timely access to lawyers by arrested persons;
- the need to ensure lawyers are not subjected to politicized judicial harassment;
- allegations of delay and corruption in the bar admission process that limit the number of lawyers admitted to the Bar each year to 35-70 lawyers despite the lawyer shortage and hundreds of graduations from law schools each year;
- revision of Cambodia's *Law on the Bar* to ensure compliance with UN human rights treaties and the UN *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyer's* particularly the requirement that bar associations exercise their functions without external interference.

##### **Colombia**

The International Caravan of Jurists (the "Caravana") made its fourth biennial visit to Colombia from 23-31 August 2014. The 68 delegates from 12 countries included judges, lawyers, legal academics and law students. They divided into groups and visited eight cities in seven departments of Colombia: Bogotá (Cundinamarca), Bucaramanga (Santander), Buenaventura and Cali (Valle del Cauca), Cartagena (Bolívar), Medellín (Antioquia), Pasto (Nariño) and Santa Marta (Magdalena). At both the national and regional level, delegates met human rights lawyers and defenders, victims of human rights violations and state officials. The four LRWC delegates to the Caravana were lawyer Heather Neun, Justice Brent Knazan of the Ontario Court of Justice and law students Samina Ullah and Flora Vineberg.



Caravana investigations confirmed that lawyers and human rights defenders continue to be at risk of stigmatization, threats, attacks, and in the worst cases, murder, for carrying out their work to gain access to justice for the most marginalised sectors, including victims of gross and systematic human rights violations.

Although dialogues in Havana between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrilla provide hope for a peace agreement to end over 50 years of armed conflict, the Colombians interviewed indicated that real and long-lasting peace requires an effective transitional process, which respects international human rights standards. Lawyers and other human rights defenders will be critical to accessing ‘truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition’ for the hundreds of thousands of victims of the armed conflict. Heather Neun’s [interim report](#) can be accessed online. The full Caravana reports have been launched at can be accessed on the Colombia Caravana UK Lawyers website.

### **Thailand**

On 17 September 2014, LRWC representatives Catherine Morris and Paul Scambler met with a member of the Thai diplomatic mission in Geneva to discuss concerns about the enforced disappearances of human rights defender Mr. Porlagee Rakcharoen in May 2014 and lawyer Mr. Somchai Neelapajit in March 2004. Also discussed were concerns about criminal defamation charges against human rights defenders. A representative of LRWC visited Thailand during late October and November 2014 and met with lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists and others in Thailand to discuss the deteriorating human rights situation in Thailand since the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) seized power in a military coup on 22 May 2014 and imposed martial law. The NCPO, through a series of announcements, suspended the Constitution, subjected civilians to trial by military courts, granted civil and criminal immunity to the NCPO, undermined judicial independence and indicated that martial law may be in place indefinitely. LRWC’s representative learned that there has been no meaningful progress in Thailand’s investigation of the enforced disappearance of lawyer Mr. Somchai Neelapajit in 2004 despite the fact that Thailand has admitted government involvement and paid compensation to Mr. Somchai’s widow. On 17 November 2014, LRWC’s representative attended the preliminary hearing of UK human rights defender Mr. Andy Hall, who was criminally charged for writing about violations of labour rights of factory workers in Thailand.

It proved not to be possible for the representative to conduct a jail visit to Mr. Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, a labour rights activist and magazine editor who is awaiting his appeal of an 11-year sentence. Human rights defenders in Thailand identified military trials of civilians as an urgent concern. Accordingly, LRWC expedited the drafting of a report entitled *Right to Trial by Civilian Courts: International Law on the Use of Military Tribunals to Determine the Rights of Civilians* for completion in early 2015.

## **V. LETTERS FOR LAWYERS**

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Writing letters for lawyers and other human rights defenders in danger because of their human rights advocacy remains a core service. Follow-up on letters, often in cooperation with other international human rights and law-based organizations, has included written reports and oral interventions to the UN HRC on cases in Burma, Cambodia, Colombia, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam; reports to the OHCHR for consideration on the UPR of Iran and Viet Nam; reports to treaty monitoring bodies; petitions to the WGAD on cases in Cambodia and Viet Nam. LRWC members wrote over 100 letters on behalf of hundreds of lawyers and other human rights defenders under attack in twenty-seven countries:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

The abuses against lawyers and other human rights defenders included: murder, enforced disappearance, illegal surveillance and raids, arbitrary arrest and detention; ill-treatment in jail including denial of medical help; politically motivated prosecutions, unfair trials and severe sentences, and enactment of laws criminalizing or restricting the human rights work of NGOs. The most common abuse against lawyers and human rights defenders in this past year has been abuse of laws and judiciary prosecute and sentence to long terms of imprisonment (Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam). Many lawyers and other human rights defenders were detained and/or intimidated for criticizing their governments (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Viet Nam), for representing unpopular clients (Iran, Zimbabwe, Turkey), for advocating for democracy or democratic reforms (Bahrain, Sudan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia), standing up for minorities (Cameroon, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe), and for promoting and protecting land rights (Cambodia, Viet Nam). The enactment of repressive laws criminalizing dissent, expression, assembly and association—ostensibly to counter terrorism—is an increasingly common threat. Apparent perpetrators of abuses identified in LRWC communications were primarily state officials, followed by corporate actors with state involvement and a few by unknown actors without state investigation.

LRWC collaborated with hundreds of other NGOs in supporting human rights advocates around the world.

Letters and other communications by LRWC, alone and in partnership with other NGOs are believed to have been a contributing factor to many positive outcomes for victims and also contributed to informing state and non-state actors about international human rights law duties. Successes included: the release of lawyers and other human rights defenders, the initiation of investigations, the reduction of sentences, and the release of wrongfully convicted persons; medical treatment provided to prisoners (Canada) compassionate release (United States); release pending appeal (Bahrain); lawyers released from prison (Sudan, Bangladesh, Iran, Zimbabwe, Viet Nam, Turkey); a lawyer acquitted of charges arising from his defense in court of a client (Turkey); a passport returned by the court (Thailand); charges dismissed (Thailand); sentence reduced (Cambodia), Thailand not elected to the HRC; wrongfully convicted released (Cambodia), lawyer released from prison and exiled (Viet Nam); human rights defender released (Bahrain); wrongful criminal investigation stopped (Indonesia); disappeared human rights defender located (Bangladesh); former president indicted over 2007 Emergency Measure (Pakistan); four human rights defenders released (Viet Nam); NGOs' work strengthened by LRWC research (global).

## **VI. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW EDUCATION**

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Providing education about international human rights laws and standards, particularly in relation to the rule of law, integrity of legal systems and rights to engage in and access independent advocacy is central to all LRWC work. During the reporting period LRWC, in collaboration with others, hosted twelve education events about international human rights standards impacted by a variety of issues of public concerns about rights to due process, legal aid, legal representation, remedies for human rights violations, the rights of indigenous peoples and rights to security and liberty. These educational presentations were made available through classroom presentations and, when resources allowed, through production and distribution of webcasts, podcasts and online posting of power points and speaking notes accompanying

the presentations. Videos of five of the presentations listed below were produced and these are all available at [www.lrwc.org](http://www.lrwc.org) and on the [LRWC YouTube site](#).

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW EDUCATION EVENTS

- **[Omar Khadr – Still in jail after 11 years: What’s next?](#)** On 16 April 2013 in Vancouver, Dennis Edney Q.C. spoke about the capture and illegal detention of Mr. Khadr by United States Special Forces. In 2002, the United States illegally detained 15-year-old Khadr in Bagram and Guantánamo Bay Prisons until he was transferred in 2012 to a Canadian maximum-security facility. This event was co-sponsored by LRWC, B.C. Civil Liberties Association, CUPW/Pacific Region, No One is Illegal/Vancouver, Stop.War.ca and the Seriously Free Speech Committee. A [video](#) of this talk is available on LRWC’s website.
- **[Savage Anxieties: Indigenous People’s Human Rights and the Not-so-Special Case of Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group v. Canada](#)**. On 9 May 2013 in Vancouver, Professor Robert A. Williams Jr. spoke about his book, *Savage Anxieties: The Invention of Western Civilization*, which explores the history of the denial of indigenous peoples’ rights to lands and resources in the West from the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans up through Canada’s 21st century treaty negotiations with First Nations in British Columbia. Professor Williams was lead counsel in the case of the *Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group v. Canada* presently before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This talk was approved for CPD credit in BC. A [video](#) and podcast can be found on LRWC’s website.
- **[The Omar Khadr Case: A Reality Check](#)**. On 5 December 2013 in Vancouver, Mr. Dennis Edney Q.C., lawyer for Omar Khadr, explained the facts and law behind plans to challenge the Guantánamo Bay ‘conviction’ of Omar Khadr before military and civil courts in the U.S. In October 2010, Omar Khadr accepted a get-out-of-jail plea bargain offered by the United States. After eight years of illegal imprisonment, torture and other prohibited treatment, and denial of due process. The event was sponsored by the Free Omar Khadr Now Campaign, LRWC, Amnesty International Canada and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.
- **[Consent or Consultation: Examining the Conflict](#)**. On 30 January 2014 in Vancouver, Grand Chief Edward John, Akile Ch’oh, examined the conflict between Canadian and international law. The Supreme Court of Canada recognizes the duty to consult First Nations on issues affecting their rights while the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* recognizes the right to free, prior and informed consent. This event was co-hosted by LRWC, Amnesty International Canada, the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group (HTG) and the Vancouver Public Library. A [video](#) of this talk is available on LRWC’s website.
- **[Corporate Land-Grabbing & Fabricated Charges in Cambodia: What Can Canadian Lawyers Do?](#)** On 12 February 2014, Catherine Morris made a presentation to the International Assistance Section of the Canadian Bar Association, Vancouver on LRWC’s advocacy regarding Cambodia, concluding with a summary of some major challenges LRWC faces in its work around the world.
- **[The Right to Say No](#)**. On 20 February 2014 in Vancouver, Dr. Judith Sayers, former chief negotiator for the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni, B.C. and adjunct law professor at the University of Victoria, examined court cases (*Hupacasath* and *Mikisew Cree*) challenging trade agreements and legislation that compromise the right of First Nations to consultation and consent on issues affecting habitats, water, lands and resources, child welfare and education. This event was

co-sponsored by LRWC, Amnesty International, Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group and the Vancouver Public Library.

- **[The Accountability Gap: Canadian Mining in Mexico \(and beyond\)](#)**. On 17 April 2014 in Vancouver, Mexican human rights lawyer Alejandra Ancheita and Canadian law graduate Emily Dwyer discussed the impact Canadian mining companies are having on communities in Mexico and elsewhere in the world, and what can be done about it. Co-sponsors were Migrante/KAIROS, LRWC, Amnesty International, Mining Justice and CoDev; endorsing the event were Mining Justice Alliance, the Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights and the United Steelworkers. This event was approved for CPD credit in BC.
- **[International Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Cambodia's Election Conflict](#)**. On 23 April 2014, in Victoria BC, Robert Patterson and Catherine Morris discussed Cambodia's election conflict in 2013 and its link to problems with the rule of law, integrity of the legal system and lack of independence of courts and tribunals. The panel was moderated by Victoria lawyer John Waddell. This Cambodian case study drew attention to roles for Canadian lawyers in safeguarding the independence of the bar and the integrity of courts and tribunals at home and internationally. This event was co-hosted by LRWC with the International Commission of Jurists Canada and the Young Lawyers Section of the Canadian Bar Association, Victoria, BC.
- **[Kinder Morgan and Northern Gateway](#)**. On 1 May 2014 in Vancouver, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Ardith Walkem discussed the relationship between the sovereignty of the original nations and the aspirations of the major corporations that shape Canada's economy in resource industries. Co-hosted by Amnesty International Canada, the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, LRWC and the Vancouver Public Library.
- **[Speaking Out on Human Rights: Debating Canada's Human Rights System](#)**. On 9 June 2014, Pearl Eliadis, a human rights lawyer, lecturer and author, argued that misplaced critiques have prevented urgent and necessary reforms essential to fairness and equality before the law and to ensuring institutional independence, impartiality, and competence. Pearl Eliadis teaches Civil Liberties at McGill's Faculty of Law and has published extensively on human rights, public policy, and equality law. She was appointed President of the Quebec Bar Association's Advisory Committee on Human Rights in 2013. This event was approved for CPD credit in BC.
- **[Human Rights & Justice in Canada: The Case of Omar Khadr](#)**. Dennis Edney Q.C. made a presentation on Friday 19 September 2014, 5:30pm at the Grand Mosque Community Centre, 2445 Waverley St. Winnipeg, Manitoba. Organized by the Winnipeg Peace Alliance Winnipeg and members of the Muslim Community and co-sponsored by LRWC.
- **[Legal Aid: A Right or a Privilege?](#)** This 1 October 2014 panel discussion launched two LRWC publications about international law duties to provide legal aid. The panel featured an introduction to the publications by author Lois Leslie followed by comments from panelists knowledgeable about the critical importance of adequate legal aid. Panelists were Austin Cullen, Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of BC, The Honourable Anne Rowles, Retired Justice of the BC Court of Appeal and lawyers Anthony Robinson and Birgit Eder. The panel was moderated by Michael Mulligan. Webcasts and podcasts of this public forum and accompanying materials are now available [online](#).

## VII. LEGAL RESEARCH

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### LRWC PUBLICATIONS

1. **Bahrain:** [\*Freedom of Assembly in Bahrain: Domestic law and practice violates international law obligations\*](#), Gail Davidson and Marion Caussanel, LRWC, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, 14 June 2013.
2. **United Nations:** [\*Promoting Human Rights by Protecting Those who Defend Them\*](#), Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes, 24 June 2013.
3. **Global:** [\*Prisoners: The Right to Medical Treatment\*](#), Grace Cheung, 26 August 2013.
4. **Global:** [\*International Right to Legal Aid in Relation to the British Columbia Missing Women Commission of Inquiry\*](#), Grant J. Sinclair, 2 September 2013.
5. **Canada:** [\*Canadian Jurisprudence Regarding the Right to Legal Aid\*](#), Erika Heinrich, 3 September 2013.
6. **Viet Nam:** [\*Statement Regarding the Matter of Mr. Le Quoc Quan and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: Violation of Rights to Pre-trial Release\*](#), Lois Leslie (B.Soc.Sc., LL.B., LL.M.) November 2013.
7. **Canada:** [\*International Right to Legal Aid in Relation to the British Columbia Missing Women Commission of Inquiry | Report\*](#), J. Grant Sinclair, Q.C, 3 December 2013.
8. **Cambodia:** [\*“Corporate Land-Grabbing & Fabricated Charges in Cambodia: What Can Canadian Lawyers Do?”\*](#), Paper, Catherine Morris, 14 February 2014.
9. **Canada:** [\*Implementation of international human rights treaties in Canada\*](#), Briefing note, Catherine Morris, 1 March 2014.
10. **Canada:** [\*Re: Trinity Western University Accreditation: LRWC Submissions to the Law Society of BC\*](#), David F. Sutherland, Ed Levy, 2 March 2014.
11. **Canada:** [\*Re: Trinity Western University Accreditation: LRWC Submissions to the Law Society of Upper Canada\*](#), David F. Sutherland, Ed Levy, Gail Davidson, 28 March 2014.
12. [\*The Right to Legal Aid: How British Columbia’s Legal Aid System Fails to Meet International Obligations\*](#), Lois Leslie, 15 September 2014.
13. [\*The Right to Legal Aid: A Guide to International Law Rights to Legal Aid\*](#), Lois Leslie, 15 September 2014.
14. [\*Prisoners: The Right to Medical Treatment – Summary of Preliminary Research, Report\*](#), LRWC, 8 October 2014.

### United Nations: Reports to Special Mandate Holders and Treaty Monitoring Groups

15. **Bahrain:** [\*Joint Appeal to the UN against Ill-Treatment and Torture of Detained Human Rights Defenders, Activists and Photojournalist in Bahrain, Joint Statement\*](#), LRWC joined an Appeal by 52 NGOs, 28 May 2013.
16. **Vietnam:** [\*Joint Submission for the Universal Periodic Review of Viet Nam, Joint Report\*](#), Lawyers for Lawyers, the Law Society of England and Wales and LRWC, 13 June 2013.
17. **Cambodia:** [\*Petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in the Yorm Bopha case\*](#), 11 August 2013.
18. **Viet Nam:** [\*Response to Government of Viet Nam’s comments concerning the Petition filed on behalf of Mr Le Quoc Quan\*](#), Media Legal Defense Initiative, LRWC, 2 September 2013.

19. **Canada:** [Presentation to James Anaya](#), UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 10 October 2013.
20. **Viet Nam:** [Update for the purpose of the Pre-session UPR regarding Viet Nam](#), Lawyers for Lawyers, LRWC and The Law Society of England and Wales, 27 November 2013.
21. **Bahrain:** [Letter of Allegation](#) on behalf of Mohammed Hassan, Hussain Hubail and Qassim Zain Aldeen of Bahrain to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression and Torture, by Media Legal Defence Initiative and endorsed by LRWC, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights, FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights, Gulf Centre for Human Rights, PEN International and Reporters Without Borders (Letter of Allegation Group), 15 December 2013.
22. **Bahrain:** LRWC and eight other NGOs signed on to a [Letter of Allegation](#) asking Special Rapporteurs to investigate torture and other violations. 15 December 2013.
23. **Canada:** [Regarding LRWC suggestions for items to include in Canada's 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> reports to CEDAW](#), 14 February 2014.
24. **Viet Nam:** [Tuyên bố về vụ việc của ông Lê Quốc Quân và chính quyền nước CHXHCN Việt Nam: Vi phạm các quyền trước khi xét xử, Translation of LRWC Statement in the matter of Le Quoc Quan](#) – Violations by the Government of Viet Nam of Rights to Pre-Trial Release, translation received 14 February 2014.
25. **Iran:** [Submission on the Universal Periodic Review of Iran: Safety and Independence of Lawyers and Access to Legal Representation](#) by LRWC and L4L, 7 March 2014.
26. **Bahrain:** [Update on the Letter of Allegation of 15 December 2013](#) Concerning the Detention of Mohammed Hassan, Hussain Hubail, and Qassim Zain Aldeen to Special Rapporteurs, by the Letter of Allegation Group, 4 June 2014.
27. **Turkey:** [Joint report to the OHCHR for the UPR of Turkey](#), LRWC, L4L, The Law Society of England and Wales and Fair Trial Watch, 24 June 2014.

#### STATEMENTS TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: WRITTEN & ORAL

##### WRITTEN

28. **Colombia:** [Failure to Fulfill Duties in Response to Attacks on Lawyers](#), Report, Heather Neun and Gail Davidson, LRWC, 27 May 2014.
29. **Canada:** [The Shrinking Space for Dissent in Canada](#), Report, Pearl Eliadis, LRWC, 27 May 2014, LRWC
30. **Iran:** [Wrongful Prosecution and Imprisonment of Lawyers](#), Report, Tina Parbakhar, Gail Davidson and others, LRWC, L4L and the Law Society of England and Wales, 27 May 2014.
31. **Vietnam:** [Failure to Comply with UPR Recommendations](#), Report, 28 May 2014, Lawyers for Lawyers and LRWC

##### ORAL

32. **Global:** [Access to Justice prevented by lack of legal aid](#), to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the HRC, delivered by Gary Anandasangaree on 28 May 2013.
33. **Cambodia/Global:** [Human Rights abuses by Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises](#), to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the HRC delivered by Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes on 31 May 2013.

34. **Sri Lanka:** [\*Untimely Passing of Human Rights Defender Sunila Abeyasekara\*](#), to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC, delivered by Gary Anandasangaree on 9 September 2013.
35. **Thailand, Cambodia:** [\*Independent Civil Society Organizations and Democracy\*](#), to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC delivered by Ms. Vani Selvarajah on 16 September 2013.
36. **Sri Lanka:** [\*Military Intervention in elections and other civil society affairs\*](#), to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC delivered by Vani Selvarajah on 26 September 2013.
37. **Bangladesh and Cambodia:** [\*Human Rights Defenders under threat in Bangladesh and Cambodia\*](#), Statement by LRWC on 10 March 2014.
38. **Myanmar:** [\*Concerns about the independence of lawyers in Myanmar\*](#), Statement by LRWC and L4L on 17 March 2014. [See video](#).
39. **Iran:** [\*Situation of Lawyers in Iran and independence of the legal profession remain precarious\*](#), Statement by LRWC and L4L on 17 March 2014. [See video](#).
40. **China:** [\*Failure of UPR to deal with grave abuses\*](#), Statement by LRWC on 19 March 2014.
41. **Malaysia:** [\*Failure of UPR report to address continued use of Sedition Act\*](#), Statement by LRWC and L4L, not delivered.
42. **Global:** [\*Prosecution and Imprisonment of Lawyers for Discharging Their Functions\*](#): Moon Jeong Ho of ALRC presented this joint statement by LRWC, L4L and ALRC.
43. **Colombia:** [\*Failure to Prevent and Punish Murder of Lawyers in Colombia\*](#), L4L Executive Director Adrie van de Streek presented this joint statement of LRWC and L4L.
44. **Thailand:** [\*The Council Must Declare the Coup Illegal\*](#), Mr. Budi Tjahjono of Franciscans International presented a joint statement by LRWC and ALRC on 23 June 2014.
45. [\*Reports of the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples and Reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples\*](#), oral intervention by the Indigenous World Association and LRWC to the HRC on 17 September 2014, presented by Kenneth Deer.
46. [\*Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Access to Justice and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Disaster Risk Reduction\*](#), oral intervention by LRWC to the HRC Panel on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on 17 September 2014, presented by Catherine Morris.
47. **Cambodia:** [\*Re: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia\*](#). Oral statement prepared for presentation by LRWC on behalf of LRWC and the ALRC on 24 September. This statement highlights continuing attacks by state authorities on human rights defenders and land activists and the absence of recourse to the courts due to lack of judicial independence. This statement was not delivered because of a scheduling error.
48. [\*Human Rights Defenders subjected to arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance\*](#) prepared for presentation by LRWC on 10 September. This statement commends the reports of the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearances and condemns prevailing impunity. The statement was not delivered as the list was cut off at #8 to address being behind schedule and LRWC was #10.

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES: INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SUBMISSIONS**

49. **Colombia:** [\*Members of José Alvéar Restrepo Lawyers' Collective v. Colombia\*](#) - Case No. 12.380, Joint Submission as amicus curiae to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights by LRWC and Lawyers without Borders Canada, filed May 2013. (English and Spanish versions filed)

**INTERNATIONAL COLOMBIA CARAVANA** – LRWC members contributed to the fact-finding, writing and editing of the reports for the Third International Colombia Caravana in August 2012 published by the UK Caravana and prepared an interim report of the August 2014 Fourth International Colombia Caravana.

50. [\*Judges at Risk: Report of the judge delegates of the Colombia Caravana, Monitoring visit 25 August to 1 September 2012\*](#), Peter Ingelse, Vice-President of the Amsterdam Court of Appeal in the Netherlands and Carol Mahood Huddart, Justice British Colombia Court of Appeal, Retired 2012, April 2013. (English and Spanish versions)
51. [\*Colombia: Protecting Access to Justice, Report of the Third International Caravana of Jurists to Colombia 2012\*](#), Andrea Righetti, Ben Newman, Heather Neun, Natasha Lloyd-Owen, Sara Chandler and Sneha Ganguly, May 2013. (English and Spanish versions)

#### **PRESS RELEASES**

52. **Viet Nam: *UN Rights Tribunal Calls for Release of Vietnamese Blogger Activist***, 2 December 2013, issued by LRWC, MLDC, English PEN, L4L, ASF Network, Frontline Defenders, Access, Reporters without Borders, Media Defence, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Article 19 and Index.
53. **Turkey: *18 rights and lawyers' groups express concern to the UN as a trial against 46 lawyers under terrorism charges is due to open on July 16***, 13 July 2013, issued by LRWC, L4L, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH/OMCT) Human Rights Association (IHD), Union internationale des avocats (UIA), Conférence Internationale des Barreaux de Tradition Juridique Commune (CIB), European Democratic Lawyers (EDL/AED), Conseil National des Barreaux (CNB), Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats (FNUJA), Syndicat des Avocats de France (SAF), Barreau de Grenoble, Barreau de Montpellier, Barreau de Paris, Barreau de Rennes, Institut des droits de l'Homme du Barreau de Grenoble, Institut des Droits de l'Homme du Barreau de Montpellier, Ordre français des Avocats du Barreau de Bruxelles.
54. **Turkey: *July trial ignored fundamental guarantees of the rights of the defence***, 22 July 2013, issued by LRWC, UIA, CIB, Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe (FBE), EDL/AED, European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights, International Association of People's Lawyers, Solicitors International Human Rights Group (UK), Bar Association of the Netherlands, Democratic Lawyers of Switzerland, Fair Trial Watch (Netherlands), Progress Lawyers Network (Belgium), Lawyers Without Borders (Sweden), CNB, Conférence des Bâtonniers de France et d'Outre-Mer, Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats (FNUJA), SAF, Berliner Anwaltskammer, Ordre français des Avocats du Barreau de Bruxelles, Barreau de Grenoble, Barreau de Montpellier, Barreau de Paris, Barreau de Rennes, Institut des Droits d l'Homme du Barreau de Bruxelles, Institut des droits de l'Homme du Barreau de Grenoble, nstitut des Droits de l'Homme du Barreau de Montpellier.
55. **Viet Nam: *On International Human Rights Day--- 10 NGOs petition Appeal Judge to Acquit Vietnamese Blogger Activist***, 10 December 2013, issued by LRWC, MLDC, English PEN, L4L, ASF Network, Frontline Defenders, Access, Reporters without Borders, Media Defence, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Article 19 and Index.
56. **Viet Nam: *Coalition condemns Appeal Court decision in Le Quoc Quan Case***, 20 February 2014. LRWC and 13 other NGOs.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT**



57. LRWC Annual General Report for the Period Ending 31 March 2013.

#### NEWSLETTERS

58. A total of 18 editions of the LRWC Newsletter were produced: seven editions between 1 April and 31 December 2013 and eleven editions during 2014.

### VIII. WORK WITH OTHER NGOS

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Working in cooperation with other NGOs, in accordance with LRWC's constitution, strengthens LRWC's advocacy and ensures that LRWC's research and education about international human rights laws and standards reaches and benefits as many people as possible including human rights advocates, governments officials, judicial system workers, jurists, journalists, students, teaches and victims of human rights violations. During this reporting period LRWC worked with hundreds of other organizations some of which are listed below.

- Access Now
- Amnesty International Canada
- Amnesty International, Asia Pacific
- Article 19
- ASF Network
- Asian Legal Resources Centre
- Bahrain Centre for Human Rights
- BC Civil Liberties Association
- BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
- Cambodian Centre for Human Rights
- Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee
- Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association
- Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
- Campaign to Abolish Torture in Vietnam
- Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Centre for International Justice
- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
- Ceartas Irish Lawyers for Human Rights
- Centre for Law and Democracy
- Civil Rights Defenders (Stockholm)
- CoDev
- Colombia Caravana UK
- Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear
- CUPW/Pacific Region
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- English PEN
- European Democratic Lawyers
- Fair Trial Watch
- Forum-Asia
- Freedom House
- Front Line Defenders
- Gulf Centre for Human Rights
- Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
- Human Rights Watch
- International Commission of Jurists Index on Censorship
- FIDH
- International Federation of Journalists
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- Justice for Girls
- Lawyers for Lawyers
- Law Society of England and Wales
- Lawyers Without Borders Canada
- Media Legal Defence Initiative
- Media Defence Southeast Asia
- Migrante BC
- KAIROS
- Mining Justice Alliance

- ODHIKAR/Bangladesh
- No One is Illegal/Vancouver
- QMUNITY—BC’s Queer Resource Centre
- PEN American Centre
- Poverty and Human Rights Centre
- Reporters Without Borders
- Seriously Free Speech Committee.
- UBC Centre for Feminist Legal Studies
- UFCW Canada
- United Steelworkers
- Vancouver Public Library
- West Coast LEAF
- Zimbabwe Watch

## **IX. CONSTITUTIONS**

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### *Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada*

- To provide support internationally to lawyers and other human rights defenders whose rights, freedoms, or independence are threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy
- To promote and protect the rights of lawyers and other human rights defenders to engage in independent advocacy
- To preserve and enhance the rule of law
- To encourage governments and other institutions to respect fair trial rights including the rights of lawyers to engage in independent advocacy
- To encourage ratification, implementation and enforcement of international human rights treaties that impact on legal advocacy rights, the integrity of legal systems and fair trial rights
- To encourage constitutional and legislative amendments necessary for conformity with international human rights standards relevant to lawyers, judges and human rights defenders; the integrity of legal systems; fair trial rights
- To provide research, education and public analyses with respect to the above
- To work with other human rights organizations to achieve these purposes

### *Lawyers’ Rights Watch (Legal Research) Canada*

- To do legal research on jurisprudence, national laws and international laws and standards related to the integrity of legal systems and the right of lawyers and other human rights defenders to engage in independent advocacy
- To make such research available to the public
- To provide public legal education on the above topics

## **X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Directors of LRWC and LRWC(LR)C are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in April and serve until the next election.

LRWC Directors from 26 April 2013 – 25 April 2014

### **LRWC**

- Gary Anandasangaree
- Clive Ansley
- Paul D. Copeland, Vice Chair
- Gail Davidson
- Andrew Guaglio, Chair
- Heather Neun

- Grace Woo
- Siobhan Airey
- Ed Levy, Ph.D
- Catherine Morris, Chair
- Gavin Magrath
- Robert Morales
- Margaret (Peggy) Stanier, Treasurer
- David F. Sutherland, Vice Chair

LRWC Directors: 25 April 2014 – 25 April 2014

**LRWC**

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- Gail Davidson
- Andrew Guaglio
- Heather Neun
- Leo McGrady Q.C.
- David F. Sutherland, Chair
- Maureen Webb
- Grace Woo, Ph.D

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- Ed Levy, Ph.D
- Gavin Magrath
- Lois Leslie
- Robert Morales
- Catherine Morris, Chair
- Margaret (Peggy) Stanier, Treasurer
- Vani Selvarajah

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## **XI. LRWC DONORS, CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

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LRWC has no paid staff other than students who work part-time for a modest hourly rate. All LRWC work is done pro bono by volunteers. LRWC funds come from members' fees and donations and from the other sources listed below. Total expenditures during the reporting period were under \$30,000. The value—in dollars and successful outcomes—of the volunteer work done by LRWC members and others cannot readily be measured. This section acknowledges and thanks some of those—LRWC members and others—who contributed money, time and expertise to the successful enhancement of international human rights worldwide.

***Monthly Donors***

Clive Ansley  
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Gary Anandasangaree	Carol M. Huddart	Heather Neun
Clive Ansley	Catherine Morris	Paul Scambler
Gail Davidson	Gavin Magrath	Vani Selvarajah

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Gary Anandasangaree	Pearl Eliadis	Tina Parbhakar
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Fatema Dada	Gavin Magrath	Luiza Teixeira
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***Education Events***

MJ Churchill	Robert Morales	Grace Woo
Kathleen Copps	Catherine Morris	Leah George-Wilson
Rosanne Daniels	Renee Racette	
Gail Davidson	Randy Robinson	

***Video/Editing***

Claire Robinson, Gregor Jahn

***Computer Systems***

Stephen Shramm of Strategic Network Systems Inc.

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Email: [lrwc@portal.ca](mailto:lrwc@portal.ca); Website: <http://www.lrwc.org>